### **ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

#### Vehicle Maintenance & Pollution Prevention



INTRODUCTION

# On the Road to a Cleaner Environment



Fleet management and scientific research go hand in hand at Argonne National Laboratory, where the Vehicle Maintenance Group applies innovative methods in pollution prevention and waste minimization (P2/WMin) in its daily work. By employing "green" maintenance techniques, Argonne's mechanics comply with federal and state environmental regulations, reduce costs, and help clean up the planet.

#### Supporting Argonne's Scientific Mission

Located near Chicago, Argonne is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) largest research and development centers. Its research falls into three main categories: (a) environmental, energy, and biomedical; (b) engineering; and (c) basic sciences. An annual operating budget of about \$480 million supports more than 200 projects. The Laboratory employs about 4,500 scientists, engineers, and support staff. Its facilities include more than 60 buildings on a 1,700-acre site.

To support its scientific mission, Argonne maintains a 300-vehicle fleet consisting of passenger cars, vans, pickup trucks, police

cars, fire equipment, and heavy-duty construction vehicles. Employees use the vehicles in many ways, including material pickup and delivery, maintenance and construction activities, field supervision, equipment installation, mail delivery, security, ambulance/rescue/fire, off-road/road repair, chauffeuring Laboratory

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guests, and driving to meetings.

#### Complying with Environmental Regulations

In servicing Argonne's vehicles, the Vehicle Maintenance Group complies with both federal and state antipollution regulations. Presidential Executive Orders require federal agencies, such as DOE, to prevent pollution and use recycled products whenever possible. In response, DOE established its Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention Crosscut Plan to reduce production and release of DOE multimedia wastes and pollutants by implementing cost-effective waste minimization and pollution prevention technologies, practices, and policies. In addition to these requirements, Argonne also complies with P2/WMin regulations mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Illinois.

## Maintaining a "Green" Attitude

Argonne's mechanics take an environmentally sound approach to their work. Every aspect of fleet management, from vehicle choice to tire replacement, is carefully considered for its



P2/WMin potential. When the new vehicle maintenance facility opened in 1994, it was furnished with recycling equipment. Maintenance scheduling is arranged to optimize vehicle performance yet reduce waste. Operating procedures emphasize P2/WMin awareness. An additional benefit of this "green" attitude is lower costs. By reducing waste, buying recycled products, and reusing or recycling instead of disposing, Argonne is also spending less on its vehicle maintenance operation.

Argonne's Vehicle Maintenance Group has undertaken the following P2/WMin initiatives:

- Use of alternative-fuel vehicles
- Use of retread tires
- Oil and oil filter recycling
- Antifreeze recycling
- Refrigerant recycling
- · Emissions testing

Argonne's Vehicle Fleet		
	Qty	Miles/Week
Compact Cars	14	101
Mid-Size Sedans	47	70
Full-Size Sedan	1	104
Police Cars	8	144
Minivans	9	90
Full-Size Vans	36	62
Compact Pickup Trucks	23	68
Full-Size Pickup Trucks	50	60
Sport Utility Vehicles	25	28
Heavy-Duty/ Special-Use Vehicles	87	573

Total number of vehicles: 300 (Miles = average miles per vehicle)

The following case studies give details on these P2/WMin measures.

#### Disclaimer

This information on the pollution prevention measures employed by the Vehicle Maintenance Group at Argonne National Laboratory is intended as guidance only. For further information, contact Earl Powell, Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439, phone: 630-252-7096.